

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) Mixing apparatus comprising a container base and a container lid, the container lid having mounted thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the mixing means comprising a shaft portion locatable through an opening in the lid and incorporating the connection means, and a mixing element portion associated with the shaft portion for rotation therewith, the container lid comprising a rim portion defining a circumferential slot into which the top edge of the container is located when the lid and container are assembled, wherein an outwardly convex portion is formed on the lid within the rim portion, the convex portion including the opening into which the mixing means is located.

26. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the outwardly convex portion is of curvilinear dome shape and the mixing means is located centrally thereof.

27. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the outwardly convex portion lies substantially level with the upper end of the container, when the lid is assembled on the open end of the container.

28. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the outwardly convex portion projects above the upper edge of the container, when the lid is assembled on the open end of the container.

29. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the outwardly convex portion is semi-spherical or part semi-spherical.

30. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the outwardly convex portion is transparent.

31. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein container lids assembled with the mixing means are arranged to be nestable or stackable with other container lids, when not assembled with the container bases, one container lid being located inside another.

32. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the slot is defined by an outer portion arranged to extend around the top edge of the container, and an inner portion arranged to extend into the container in contact with or closely adjacent the inner wall of the container.

33. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 32 wherein a curvilinear joint is provided between the inner and outer portions of the slot.

34. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 32 wherein the inner portion extends between two and twelve times the distance of the outer portion.

35. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 comprising a support for an assembled container and lid with the lid located on the support, and a clamping member movable to engage the end of the container opposite the lid and locate the assembly during operation of the mixing means, and wherein the clamping member includes a clamping surface engageable with the container and extending beyond the side edges of the container and comprising switch means for detecting an obstruction to a clamping action.

36. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 35 wherein the clamping member is reciprocally movable and, upon contacting the container to clamp the assembly, applies a predetermined force to the container in the direction towards the support.

37. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the clamping member is connected to a fixed member through spring means and, upon the clamping force exceeding a predetermined level, the spring means compresses and a signal is generated to stop movement of the clamping member.

38. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the mixing element portion is arranged to be assembled with the shaft portion after the shaft portion is located in said opening.

39. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the mixing element portion includes an opening through which the shaft portion is located to lock into said opening.

40. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 38 wherein the mixing means is assembled onto the lid by first inserting the shaft portion through one end of the lid opening, and then the mixing element portion is locked onto the shaft portion at the opposite end of the shaft.

41. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 40 wherein the mixing element portion clips onto the shaft portion and is secured thereto by shoulder means on the shaft portion and/or by welding.

42. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 comprising lubrication means to permit the contents of the container, during mixing, to contact and lubricate the co-operating surfaces of the shaft portion and the opening into the lid, and wherein the lubrication means includes longitudinal slots in the side walls of the opening which constitute a sleeve for said shaft portion, the slots admitting the container contents to act as lubrication.

43. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the container lid includes a product access opening with closure means, the access opening being for accessing the contents of the container after mixing.

44. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the access opening is in the form of a radial opening.

45. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 25 wherein the container lid includes means for holding product arranged to be mixed with material in the container before, during or after operation of the mixing means.

46. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 45 wherein the holding means includes a pocket having an opening for introducing said product into the pocket.

47. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 46 wherein the pocket has mesh means for permitting material in the container to enter into the pocket.

48. (New) Mixing apparatus according to claim 46 wherein the pocket is arranged to contain carbonation or flavouring means for carbonating or flavouring product in the container.

49. (New) A container lid for mounting on an open ended beverage container, the container lid having located thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through an opening in the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the container lid comprising a rim portion for fitting of the lid onto the open end of the container, characterized in that the lid includes an outwardly convex portion formed within the rim portion, the convex portion including the opening through which the mixing means extends.

50. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the outwardly convex portion is of a curvilinear dome shape and the mixing means is located centrally thereof.

51. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the outwardly convex portion lies substantially level with the upper end of the container, when the lid is assembled on the open end of the container.

52. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the outwardly convex portion projects above the upper edge of the container, when the lid is assembled on the open end of the container.

53. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the outwardly convex portion is semi-spherical or part semi-spherical.

54. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the outwardly convex portion is transparent.

55. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the lid defines an internal region in which the mixing means operates, said region having curved surfaces.

56. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the lid includes a product access opening with closure means, the access opening being for accessing the contents of the container after mixing.

57. (New) A container lid according to claim 56 wherein the access opening is in the form of a radial opening.

58. (New) A container lid according to claim 49 wherein the rim includes slits extending in a generally axial direction.

59. (New) A container lid for mounting on an open ended beverage container, the container lid having located thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through an

opening in the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the container lid comprising a rim portion for fitting of the lid onto the open end of the container, and wherein the lid defines an internal region in which the mixing means operates, said region having curved surfaces and the mixing means is located centrally thereof.

60. (New) A container lid according to claim 59 wherein the internal region is of curvilinear dome shape.

61. (New) A container lid according to claim 59 wherein the outwardly convex portion is semi-spherical or part semi-spherical.

62. (New) A container lid according to claim 59 wherein the lid includes a product access opening with closure means, the access opening being for accessing the contents of the container after mixing.

63. (New) A container lid according to claim 62 wherein the access opening is in the form of a radial opening.

64. (New) A container lid for mounting on an open ended beverage container, the container lid having located thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through an opening in the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the container lid comprising a rim portion for fitting of the lid onto the open end of the container, characterized in that the lid includes a product access opening with closure means, the access opening being for accessing the contents of the container after mixing.

65. (New) A container lid according to claim 64 wherein the access opening is in the form of a radial opening.

66. (New) A container lid according to claim 64 wherein an outwardly convex portion is formed on the lid within the rim portion, the convex portion including the access opening and the mixing means.

67. (New) A container lid according to claim 66 wherein the outwardly convex portion is of curvilinear dome shape and the mixing means is located centrally thereof.

68. (New) A container lid according to claim 64 wherein the lid defines an internal region in which the mixing means operates, said region having curved surfaces.

69. (New) A container lid for mounting on a beverage container, the container lid having mounted thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the container lid comprising a rim portion defining a circumferential slot into which the top edge of the container is located when the lid and container are assembled, wherein the slot is defined by oppositely-directed circumferential portions, a first of said portions lying in contact with or closely adjacent the inner side wall of the container and extending into the container when the lid and container are assembled together, and wherein the other of said circumferential portions is spaced inwardly of the side wall and has a curvilinear join with said first portion.

70. (New) Mixing apparatus comprising a container base and a container lid, the container lid having mounted thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is

operated, wherein the apparatus further comprises a support for an assembled container and lid with the lid located on the support, and a clamping member movable to engage the end of the container opposite the lid and locate the assembly during operation of the mixing means, said clamping member including a clamping surface engageable with the container and extending beyond the side edges of the container and comprising switch means for detecting an obstruction to a clamping action.

71. (New) Mixing apparatus comprising a container base and a container lid, the container lid having mounted thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is operated, characterized in that the apparatus further comprises lubrication means to permit the contents of the container, during mixing, to contact and lubricate the co-operating surfaces of the shaft portion and the opening into the lid, and wherein the lubrication means includes longitudinal slots in the side walls of the opening which constitute a sleeve for said shaft portion, the slots admitting the container contents to act as lubrication.

72. (New) A method of preparing a blended beverage in a mixing apparatus, the mixing apparatus comprising a container base and a container lid, the container lid having mounted thereon mixing means, the mixing means extending through the lid and having, at one end, means for connection to a drive motor external to the container and, at the other end, a mixing element for mixing the contents of the container when the drive means is operated, the method including the steps of charging the container with product to be blended, fitting the lid onto the container, using a clamping mechanism to clamp the lid onto the container until a predetermined



pressure has been reached, and then inverting the container whereby to connect the mixing means to the drive motor for blending product within the container.

73. (New) A method according to claim 72, wherein a ring type clamping mechanism is used to clamp circumferentially around the container.